

Key Note Speaker Dave White, Chief

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dave White has served as Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the past three years. As Chief, he oversees programs that help protect the environment and preserve our natural resources through voluntary, private lands conservation. He leads a staff of 12,000 employees across the country and manages a budget of more than \$4 billion. White's career with NRCS has spanned 35 years. From 2002 to 2008, he served as the NRCS State Conservationist in Montana where he led efforts to help farmers and ranchers improve agricultural production while reducing their environmental impact. For much of 2007 and 2008, he was detailed to Iowa Senator Tom Harkin's office in Washington, D.C., where he helped the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry craft the conservation title of the 2008 Farm Bill. White is a graduate of the University of Missouri where he studied agriculture. He and his wife live in Charlottesville, Virginia and have a grown son and daughter.



Speaker biographies and presentations will be available on our website after today's symposium at www.hoosierchapterswcs.org



In 1950 there were 15.4 million people in the United States and 5.6 million farms. Today our population is double that and there are only 2 million farms. In 1950 one farmer only needed to produce enough to feed 30 people. Today's farmer feeds 155 people.

As the world's population continues to grow, farmers will do what they have always done - continue to improve their on-farm practices to keep up with a growing demand. They will employ precision

techniques to increase efficiency and save energy, adopt innovative conservation practices to limit erosion and save water, and adapt to changing weather and market conditions to remain productive and profitable.

At Indiana Farm Bureau we have a deep respect for farming's past, but are even more excited about agriculture's future.



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Program

9:00	Welcome	Becky Ross, Past President, Hoosier Chapter SWCS
	Keynote: Why Soil Health? Why Now? How NRCS is Prepared.	Dave White, Chief, NRCS
	The Basics — the Science and Economics	Facilitator: <i>Bill Lambert, Area Program Specialist, NRCS</i>
	Soil Microbiology	Dr. Kristine Nichols, Soil Microbiologist, ARS
	Break	
	Soil Microbiology	Dr. Nichols
	Economics of Soil Health	Felix Spinelli, Economist, NRCS (Retired)
12:00	Conservation Awards Lunch <i>Recognition of scholarship winners and outstanding groups and individuals involved in conservation of natural resources</i>	
	Vincennes University Economics of Soil Health Research Project	Susan Brocksmith, AgriBusiness Program Chair
	The Reality — Why We Do It, How It Works:	Facilitator: <i>Harold Thompson, Ag Liaison, Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance</i>
	Britton Farms	Ed Britton, Farmer, Roachdale; Terry Asher, Farm Manager
	Maloney Farms	Jack Maloney, Farmer and Tenant, Brownsburg
	Break	
	Robison Farms	Dave and Don Robison, Farmers, Greenwood
	Partnership Projects	Facilitator: <i>Barry Fisher, Soil Health Specialist/Agronomist, NRCS</i>
	Southwest Soil Health Efforts (Soil health practice impacts on mined lands/CCSI mentor program)	Kevin Allison, Conservation Technician, Daviess County SWCD
	On Farm Network Research	Hans Kok, Coordinator, CCSI; Jordan Seger, Program Manager, ISDA; Dan Perkins, Conservation Programs Specialist, Jasper County SWCD
5:00	Wrap Up and Next Steps	Barry Fisher

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Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization -- founded in 1943 -- that serves as an advocate for conservation professionals and for science-based conservation practice, programs, and policy.



Indiana Soil Health Symposium

The Economics and Benefits of Soil Health

November 16, 2012

Wyndham Indianapolis West, Indianapolis, IN



Feeding the world by helping farmers improve the health of our Nation's soil is one of the most important endeavors of our time. Keeping soil healthy provides the best return on the nation's investment in conservation.

Using *Soil Health Management Systems* means more profitable and sustainable farming. Soil health is not a new concept—it is a return to our roots!

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